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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,386	09/30/2003	Tatsuya Araki	D-1534	3748

32628 7590 10/12/2005

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EXAMINER

KAO, CHIH CHENG G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2882

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EV

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/673,386	Applicant(s) ARAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Chih-Cheng Glen Kao	Art Unit 2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: X-Ray Equipment with Cassette Storage Box Locking Means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's admission of prior art (AAPA).

AAPA discloses X-ray equipment comprising a carriage (fig. 8, #51), an x-ray tube (paragraph 2, line 5) mounted on the carriage (fig. 8, #51) for irradiating X-rays, a cassette storage box (fig. 8, #52) pivotally attached to the carriage (fig. 8, #51) for storing a cassette with a radiographic storage medium (paragraph 2, lines 2-3), storage box locking means (fig. 8, #53) engaging a cassette storage box (fig. 8, #52) for locking the cassette storage box (fig. 8, #52) in a locked state (which has been interpreted by the Examiner as being the state during which the pin 54 is engaged with the hook 53) and locking release holding means (fig. 10, #55) attached to the

Art Unit: 2882

storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) for holding the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) in a released state (which has been interpreted by the Examiner as being the state during which the pin 54 is not engaged with the hook 53) so that the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) is released from the locked state (wherein the locked state has been interpreted by the Examiner as being the state during which the pin 54 is engaged with the hook 53), wherein said locking release holding means includes an elastic member (fig. 8, #55) for urging the storage box locking means (fig. 8, #53) in the locked state (which has been interpreted by the Examiner as being the state during which the pin 54 is engaged with the hook 53) when the storage box locking means (fig. 8, #53) is locked (with the pin 54), and for urging the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) in the released state (which has been interpreted by the Examiner as being the state during which the pin 54 is not engaged with the hook 53) when the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) is released (from the pin 54).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter.

4. Regarding claim 2, prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest an X-ray equipment including auto-lock switching means attached to storage box locking means for switching the storage box locking means from a released state to a locked state when a cassette storage box is

Art Unit: 2882

closed, in combination with all the limitations in the claim and base claim. Claims 3-8 contain allowable subject matter by virtue of their dependency.

Response to Amendment/Arguments

5. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. Applicant's arguments filed 8/4/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. Applicants argue that AAPA does not disclose locking release holding means for holding the storage box locking means in a released state so that the storage box locking means is released from a locking state. The Examiner disagrees. As seen in Figure 8, the Examiner has interpreted the broadest reasonable interpretation of a locked state as a state during which the hook (fig. 8, #53) is engaged with the pin (fig. 8, #54). As seen in Figure 10, the Examiner has further interpreted the broadest reasonable interpretation of a released state as a state during which the hook (fig. 10, #53) is not engaged with the pin (fig. 10, #54). Therefore, AAPA does teaches locking release holding means (fig. 10, #55) attached to the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) for holding the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) in a released state (which has been interpreted by the Examiner as being the state during which the pin 54 is not engaged with the hook 53) so that the storage box locking means (fig. 10, #53) is released from the locked state (wherein the locked state has been interpreted by the Examiner as being the state during which the pin 54 is engaged with the hook 53).

Art Unit: 2882

Furthermore, in response to Applicants' argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., locking release holding means including a spring 15, stopper 16, and opening 17) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims.

Applicants' arguments are not persuasive, and the claims remain rejected.

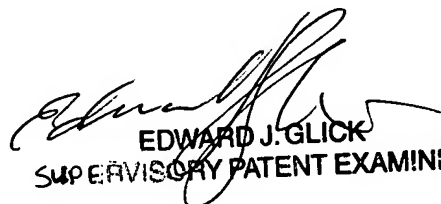
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


gk


EDWARD J. GLICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER